

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
APRIL 19, 2007**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Harry Saltzgaver, President, at 9:00 a.m., at the Admiral Kidd Park Community Center. Thomas Shippey, Manager of Maintenance Operations Bureau, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Harry Saltzgaver, President
Drew Satariano, Vice President
Simon George
Albert Guerra
Bob Livingstone
Sarah Tong Sangmeister
Brett Waterfield

Absent: None

Staff: Phil Hester, Director, Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development Bureau
Chrissy Marshall, Manager, Community Recreation Services Bureau
Sherri Nixon-Joiner, General Superintendent, Community Recreation Services
J.C. Squires, Manager, Business Operations Bureau
Dave Ashman, Manager, Special Events and Filming Bureau
Lt. Joe Stilinovich, Park Rangers
Geoff Hall, Special Projects Officer
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Vida Brown, Arts Council
Steve Elicker, Arts Council
Derek Barraza, California Sun & Surf
Edward Moreno, CSULB student
Summer Hanson, Children's Day

President Saltzgaver thanked everyone who attended the Admiral Kidd Park Community Center ribbon cutting ceremony on March 24, 2007.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2007

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Vice President Satariano to approve the March 15, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#07-0401

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Tong Sangmeister to authorize the Manager of Community Recreation Services Bureau, or his or her management designee, to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed. The motion carried unanimously.

#07-0402

CREATION OF ADDITIONAL DOG PARK IN WESTERN HALF OF CITY

Mr. Hester stated that City Manager received a request from Councilwoman Rae Gabelich, through the City Council, to identify some locations for an additional dog park in the western area of the city.

Vice President Satariano stated that the recommendation is to refer this item to the Capital Improvements Committee. The Committee met this morning and discussed this item. They asked Mr. Dennis Eschen to look for inventory on the west side of the city and prepare a report and bring it back to the Commission in the third quarter. He said that since there is ongoing communication with dog owners and dog walkers in the east side of town with a permitting process, they want to get all of that set up before they work on the west side.

President Saltzgaver suggested that an association be created for a dog park on the west side, such as was created for the Recreation Park dog park.

Mr. Hester stated that this would be a good opportunity to evaluate what other cities are doing with their dog parks.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner George to refer the issue of the creation of a dog park in the Western half of the City to the Capital Improvements Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

#07-0403

REQUEST BY CALIFORNIA SUN & SURF INTERNATIONAL SOCCER TOURNAMENT FOR WAIVER OF CONCESSION AND FIELD PERMIT FEES

Mr. Hester stated that this is an annual request and the Department has a long relationship with this organization. This is an extremely large soccer tournament. Mr. Barraza has been very gracious and helped out by making donations and helped with maintenance by making improvements to some of the fields.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to approve the request by the California Sun & Surf International Soccer Tournament for the waiver of concession and field permit fees with the aforementioned "Conditions of Use." The motion carried unanimously.

President Saltzgaver said that this is the model for a fee waiver and he would like other organizations to be aware of this before they come before the Parks and Recreation Commission requesting a fee waiver.

IV. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met and reviewed budget priorities. They are looking forward to focusing on the Department's core values as the budget procedure moves forward. We hope to have a more complete report next month.

President Saltzgaver stated that he would be attending the California Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members meeting next month.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee did not meet.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner George, Chair

Commissioner George stated that the Committee did not meet, but the report was included in the packet.

Lt. Joe Stilinovich stated that they have been conducting a sting operation at Silverado Park, and they have seen a dramatic decrease in vandalism and graffiti. He said that there has been some wind damage and branches have broken, but nothing major has occurred. He stated that there has been some vandalism and a burglary at the Nature Center during nighttime hours. They are looking at changing some things there to make it less desirable to sneak in at night, such as changing from a silent alarm to an audible alarm. He also mentioned that the park rangers would be training in driving the quad vehicles. Lt. Stilinovich stated that Councilwoman Schipske's skate park meeting was held last night at El Dorado Park Community Center. The president of Van's

was also in attendance and said that he would donate 50 helmets per each skate park.

President Saltzgaver stated that it seemed that the best thing that came out of this meeting was to squelch the rumor that the City would be filling in the skate park.

Commissioner Guerra asked what type of vehicles the park rangers drive?

Lt. Stilinovich responded that the park rangers have two trucks and most drive the Ford Crown Victoria.

Commissioner Guerra asked when the vehicles might be up for replacement.

Lt. Stilinovich responded that four of the Crown Victorias are being rotated for replacement now. He wasn't sure if they have a five, six, or seven-year replacement cycle through Fleet Services.

Commissioner Guerra said that the perception of a park ranger vehicle would be for them to drive a jeep type vehicle as opposed to the Crown Victoria type vehicle, which seems like more of a police type vehicle. He believed that the jeep type vehicle would make the park rangers seem friendlier.

Mr. Hester stated that fencing the skate parks so they can be closed off during certain periods of time might be an option. He said that it will be interesting to see how the Youth Commission will handle this and what they have learned.

President Saltzgaver stated that the Irvine Park skate park is supervised but is only open from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on school days, and during the summer it is open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Our skate parks are open during the standard park hours.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra stated that the Committee did not meet.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Vice President Satariano, Chair

Vice President Satariano stated that the Committee met and they will report back after their next quarterly meeting.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Tong Sangmeister, Chair

Commissioner Tong Sangmeister stated that they did not meet and they postponed the meeting with the School District. The Committee will meet with City staff on May 10, to discuss expectations.

President Saltzgaver stated that he might want to attend this meeting.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Livingstone, Chair

Commissioner Livingstone stated that they did not meet. However, Mr. Geoff Hall did meet with the dog walkers two weeks ago.

Mr. Hall stated that he sent out a notice to all the dog walkers that he knows of, that a meeting would be held to discuss permits to use the dog park. He said he shared with them the draft recommendations for permits to use the facility and the conditions that go along with that. The dog walkers were, for the most part, receptive to that. He still needs to work on what insurance level is needed to indemnify the City. When that is resolved, he said he would take the issue back to the Committee and they would be ready to hold a public meeting.

Mr. Hall said that one of the complaints from the very beginning was that some of the dog walkers were using the small dog park as a holding pen while they got their vehicles. He said that staff has now constructed a separate holding pen/entrance gate by the parking lot for the dog walkers. They are very happy and this has solved that issue.

V. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION**

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – MARCH 2007

President Saltzgaver asked for any questions on the monthly report.

President Saltzgaver commented on the report cover; that was quite a day with Admiral Kidd Park community center grand opening and Rosie the Riveter Park re-naming ceremony.

Commissioner Waterfield said that he talked about the idea of possibly exploring the use of artificial turf at Admiral Kidd Park, because of the heavy use. Is that something that the Department is still looking at?

Mr. Hester stated that he met with the president of the soccer group a few weeks ago and they are interested in doing that. Staff is still discussing the issue and may install the turf either at Admiral Kidd Park or at Hudson Park.

They will need to try out the turf somewhere before the Sports Park project gets that far.

It was moved by Commissioner Waterfield and seconded by Commissioner Tong Sangmeister to receive and file the Director's Monthly Report for March 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

President Saltzgaver stated that a letter was received from the Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Hester stated that the Department receives requests every year from a few organizations to hold carnivals at Houghton Park. One of these organizations is the Kiwanis Club, who has been holding an annual carnival at Houghton Park for many years. The Department has begun internal conversations about carnivals in general and the maintenance problems and concerns associated with them being located on park sites. Staff has been looking at alternative locations for carnivals. A rumor was started that the Parks and Recreation Commission was going to deny the Kiwanis Club a carnival permit. Mr. Hester stated that they received letters and e-mails from them and staff assured them that their carnival would be grandfathered in, with the understanding that if they would go away, they would fall under the new guidelines. Mr. Hester stated that staff would prepare an acknowledgement letter for President Saltzgaver to send.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Saltzgaver stated that there was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. RECOMMENDATION REGARDING IMPROVEMENTS FOR LOMA VISTA PARK

Mr. Dennis Eschen stated that the Department received a request from the Arts Council for Long Beach to install additional art in Loma Vista Park. He introduced Ms. Vida Brown to describe the project.

Ms. Vida Brown stated that she is the Director of Public Art for the Arts Council. She stated that the proposal was included in the packet. This is a program that teaches third graders about civic design and public art. She said there are three phases to this project. The first phase is to select a school. The second phase is to have the artist teach a class about the public art process. They have to go into the community and find a site they think is appropriate. They have to present before a professional panel and the project is selected. The

Loma Vista Park was selected by the panel as the most appropriate site. Steve Elicker was the teacher who went into the school and taught the students. They are now taking the concept to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval.

Mr. Eschen stated that they would also need to receive City Council approval also.

Commissioner Livingstone asked what the ongoing maintenance of the project would be.

Mr. Steve Elicker stated that the real goal is to have children take pride in their neighborhood. This is rubber matting and the planets are cast concrete and ceramic tile and it would be fairly easy to remove any graffiti. This project has been well thought out for durability and maintenance.

Ms. Brown stated that they spoke to the Los Angeles County Sanitation District and if they need to go into the manhole in case of an emergency, the Sanitation District is willing to paint any of the destroyed or damaged items.

President Saltzgaver asked who is paying for this project.

Ms. Brown responded that they obtained a grant.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Tong Sangmeister to recommend to the City Council and City Manager that the installation of a solar system envisioned by Edison Elementary School students and implemented by Steve Elicker through the Arts Council for Long Beach Eye on Design Program is an appropriate improvement to Loma Vista Park. The motion carried unanimously.

B. UPDATE ON ASSOCIATION OF VOLLEYBALL PROFESSIONALS TOUR SCHEDULED EVENT – DAVE ASHMAN

Mr. David Ashman showed a short, public relations movie clip from the Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP). He said that the AVP activities would be held from July 19-22, 2007, and he described the area that would be used for the volleyball courts and for parking. Mr. Ashman stated that the bleachers, parking area, and courts would be left up for a month to be used by Sea Festival events. He said that the courts would be installed at the end of May or first week of June and that Sinjin Smith and Randy Stoklos would hold youth volleyball camps and a corporate challenge volleyball tournament. In addition, U.S.A. Volleyball will be holding a teen volleyball competition in conjunction with AVP. The stadium will also be used for the 4th of July fireworks show with music, entertainment, and a hospitality compound. After the fireworks show, the Department will work with some local non-profit

organizations, such as Musical Theater West and Shakespeare Company, and have them use the stadium.

President Saltzgaver stated that he was under the impression that the stadium was the property of AVP, is this not the case?

Mr. Ashman responded that the stadium is the property of the Grand Prix Association and the City will contract with them to keep the stadium up while AVP continues their tour. AVP has changed their program and all the California stops will be contracted with the Grand Prix. Their other contractor will do the other stops across the nation.

President Saltzgaver asked if boater parking would be an issue.

Mr. Ashman stated that part of the Marina Green would be used for parking and the Coastal Commission has given the City permission to park on the sand, north of the bike path.

Commissioner Waterfield asked for a clarification on the time frame of the project.

Mr. Ashman responded that they would start construction of the stadium the last weekend in June and start construction of the sand volleyball courts the last weekend in May after Memorial Day.

Commissioner Waterfield asked for the time period when it would be available for programming.

Mr. Ashman responded that the sand courts would be available from the last weekend in June through the end August. The stadium would be up from the first weekend in July to the first weekend in August.

Commissioner Tong Sangmeister asked what the seating capacity is at the stadium, and she assumed this was not open access to everyone.

Mr. Ashman responded that everything on the Marina Green would be in a gated area and would be ticketed admission only. There would be alcohol available inside that area. The seating has not been finalized yet. The minimum seating might be 5,000 and the maximum might be 7,500, and it really depends on what the cost would be to build the stadium.

Ms. Summer Hanson stated that she didn't think that alcohol and parks and recreation were a responsible mix. She said that she realized that nothing could be done about it because of finances.

President Saltzgaver thanked Ms. Hanson for her comments.

C. RECAP OF AMGEN BIKE RACE – DAVE ASHMAN

Mr. Ashman stated that this information would also be presented to the City Council, for their information. He stated that one of the components was the Spin Art, which was a big hit. Mr. Ashman then showed a short film clip on the Amgen event. There were three components to this event. The first was Bike with Tony Cruz in El Dorado Park, the next was the Lifestyle Expo with kids doing tricks on their BMX bikes and other event, and the third was the amateur and professional race. He said that Tony Cruz went to nine middle schools and spoke to 4th and 5th grade students about what he does. Mr. Ashman went over the advertising and media coverage for this event.

Commissioner Livingstone asked if this event would be back next year.

Mr. Ashman responded that discussions have begun on the possibility of having the Amgen event back in Long Beach next year. He said this is the first event for which they have received complement calls. The event was well done.

Ms. Vida Brown stated she is still receiving complement calls regarding the Spin Art.

President Saltzgaver stated that Mr. Dave Ashman and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine were pretty central to the whole event and it wouldn't have happened without them.

Mr. Ashman showed a clip, given to the City by CSI Miami, of shots they filmed in Long Beach from their television show. Mr. Ashman stated that he would be requesting short clips like this from the other filming companies who film in Long Beach, to be used for advertising for the City.

IX. **COMMENTS**

A. AUDIENCE

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the audience.

Ms. Summer Hanson spoke about the upcoming 13th Annual Children's Day event, which would be happening on April 21, 2007, in El Dorado Park West. She spoke about the various entertainment scheduled. She distributed flyers to the Parks and Recreation Commissioners.

B. STAFF

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the staff.

Mr. Shippey distributed a postcard notice of the Craftsman Village Mural dedication, which would occur on May 12, 2007.

Mr. Eschen stated that there is going to be a demolition ceremony on April 21, 2007, at 9:00 a.m., at Orizaba Park, which will mark the beginning of Orizaba Park.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Waterfield reemphasized how exciting it is to be at the Admiral Kidd Park community center and see it develop. He hopes to visit more parks at their Commission meetings.

Commissioner Tong Sangmeister stated that she attended the Baby Animal Day at the Nature Center and thought it was a great event. She said that in the future, maybe they should think about making it a two-day event.

Commissioner Guerra stated that he attended the openings of both parks with his boys. They got to see two sides of Long Beach in one day. He said that more shade and more chairs would be a good idea, if events include a lot of senior citizens.

X. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 17, 2007, at El Dorado Park West in the Senior Center Library, 2800 Studebaker Rd., Long Beach.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Saltzgaver adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine